

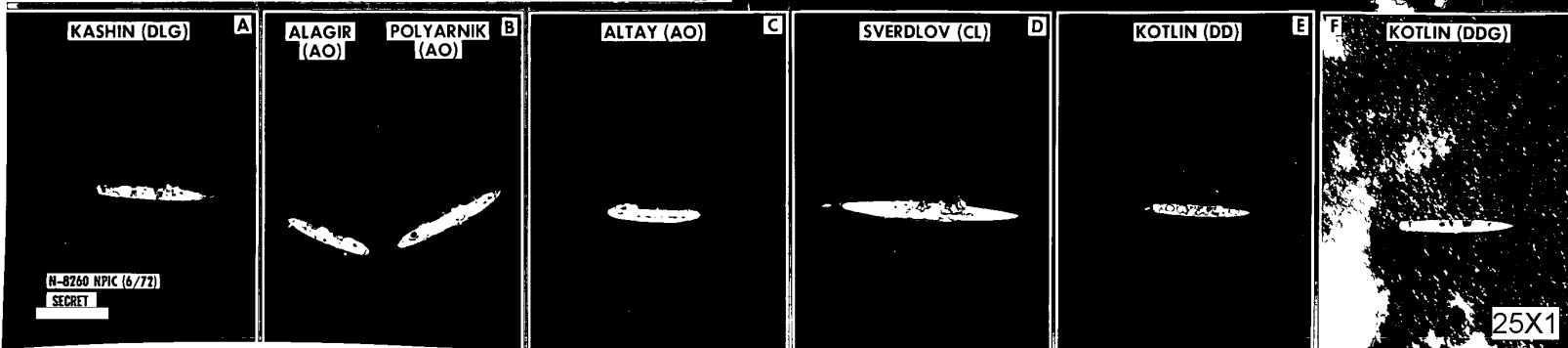
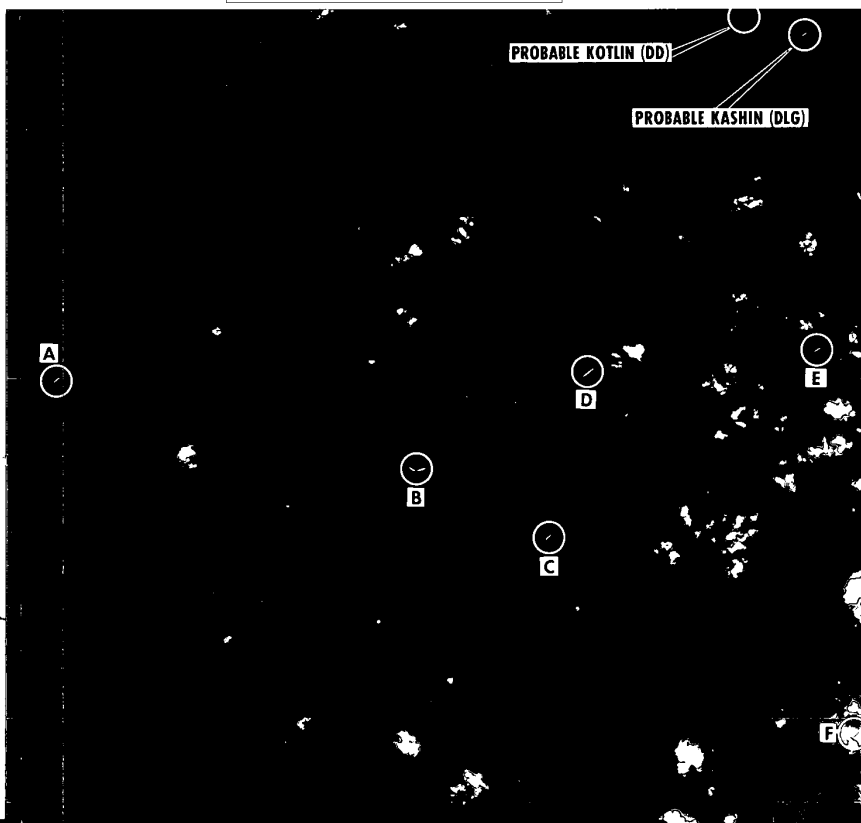
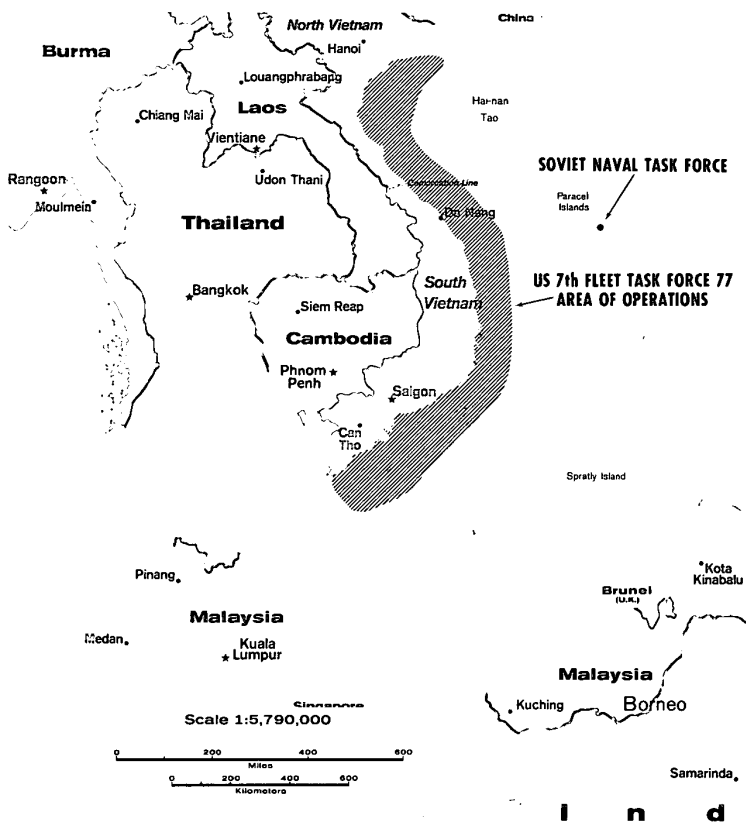
SOVIET NAVAL TASK FORCE SOUTH CHINA SEA 15-40N 113-50E

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SECRET

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REFERENCE TO:

SOVIET NAVAL TASK FORCE

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SOUTH CHINA SEA

15-40N 113-50E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

A SOVIET NAVAL TASK FORCE ANCHORED IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, SOUTHEAST OF THE PARACEL ISLANDS.

2. LOCATION:

IN THE MACCLESFIELD BANK OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, APPROXIMATELY 90 NAUTICAL MILES (NM) SOUTHEAST OF THE PARACEL ISLANDS, AND APPROXIMATELY 315 NM EAST OF DA NANG, SOUTH VIETNAM IN THE VICINITY OF 15-40N 113-50E.

3. REMARKS:

THE US NAVY SEVENTH FLEET (TASK FORCE 77) OPERATING OFF THE VIETNAMESE COAST MINED

THE APPROACHES OF THE SEVEN NORTH VIETNAMESE

PORTS

THE MINES WERE ARMED

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25X1

4. COLLATERAL:

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GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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4. COLLATERAL:
(CONT'D)

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN OF 5 JUNE 1972 REPORTED, "THE SOVIET CRUISER AND FOUR OF THE DESTROYERS REMAIN SOUTHEAST OF THE PARACEL ISLANDS BUT A FIFTH DESTROYER DEPARTED THE ANCHORAGE YESTERDAY (3 JUNE 1972) AND IS MOVING TOWARD THE LUZON STRAITS AND POSSIBLY HOME PORT. THREE E-CLASS CRUISE MISSILE NUCLEAR SUBMARINES ARE ALSO ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA OR ITS NORTHEASTERN APPROACHES, AND A FOURTH E-CLASS UNIT THAT DEPARTED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN LATE MAY

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4. COLLATERAL:
(CONT'D)

HAS LOITERED EAST OF TAIWAN FOR THE PAST
FEW DAYS."

25X1

5. PAST COVERAGE:

ONE GIANT SCALE

6. FIRST
IDENTIFICATION:

25X1

7. MISSION READOUT:

NINE SOVIET SHIPS WERE OBSERVED DEAD IN THE
WATER IN AN APPROXIMATE 10 NM RADIUS OF 15-40N 113-50E IN THE MACCLESFIELD
BANK. THE TASK FORCE CONSISTED OF ONE SVERDLOV (CL), ONE KASHIN (DLG),
ONE KOTLIN (DDG), ONE KOTLIN (DD), ONE POLYARNIK (AO), ONE ALTAY (AO),
ONE ALAGIR (AO), ONE PROBABLE KASHIN (DLG), AND ONE PROBABLE KOTLIN (DD).
NO SUBMARINES WERE OBSERVED.

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ENLARGEMENTS : MOSIAC 3X, 6 ENLARGEMENTS 40X (EA)

IEG/SGD/SAB

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